

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated June 5, 2003 and have made amendments to the claims. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. By virtue of this amendment, claims 2-12 and 14-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 14-16, and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasuga (Japanese Patent No. 3-250635). Claims 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasuga in view of Obara (U.S. Patent No. 5,071,612). Claims 1 and 13 have been canceled so, with respect to these claims, these rejections are moot. With respect to claims 2-6, 9-12, 14, and 15, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 4, 14, and 15 have been amended to depend from claim 16, and claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 19. Additionally, claim 3 depends from claim 2. Claims 16 and 19 have been indicated as being allowable over the art of record, and thus, claims 2-6, 14, and 15 should also be allowable over the art of record.

Furthermore, claim 9 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 16, and claims 10-12 depend from claim 9. Claim 16 has been indicated as being allowable over the art of record, and thus, claims 9-12 should also be allowable over the art of record.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 2-6, 9-12, 14, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 7 and 8 are allowable over the art of record, and that claims 16-20 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 16 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form. Additionally, claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 16, and claim 20

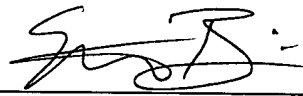
depends from claim 19. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 7, 8, and 16-20 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (561) 989-9811 should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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